

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method in a data processing system for managing information, the method comprising:
 receiving information from a plurality of users;
 storing the information to form stored information;
 receiving a request to remove selected information
10 from the stored information from a user within the set of users, wherein the selected information is received in response to a transaction involving the user; and
 responsive to receiving the request, removing the selected information from the stored information.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving a request includes:
 determining whether the request is a valid request;
 and
20 preventing removing of the selected information in response to a determination that the request is an invalid request.
- 25 3. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of a certificate, a password, and a key is used to determine whether the request is valid.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the selected information is personal information about the user.

Docket No. AUS920010546US1

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Docket No. AUS920010546US1

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the personal information includes at least one of a user name, a user identification, a password, a telephone number, an e-mail address, a physical address, a social security number, a 5 birth date, and a credit card number.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the transaction is a commercial transaction involving a credit card number.
- 10 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the request sent to the user is in a form of an applet requesting personal information about the user.
- 15 8. A method in a data processing system for managing information, the method comprising:
sending a Web page to a user at a client;
receiving a response, wherein the response include the information;
processing a business transaction with the client
20 using the information;
storing the information to form stored information;
receiving a request to remove the stored information; and
removing the stored information in response to
25 receiving the request.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein the request is received after retaining the stored information is unnecessary to the business transaction.
- 30 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the business transaction is a purchase of an item using a credit card.

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Docket No. AUS920010546US1

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11. A distributed data processing system comprising:
a network;
a plurality of clients connected to the network; and
a server connected to the network, wherein the
5 server receives information from the plurality of clients
in which the information is received in association with
serving Web pages and receiving the information in
response to serving the Web pages, stores the information
to form stored information, receives a request from a
10 client within the plurality of clients to discard a
portion of the information from the stored information,
removing the portions of the information from the stored
information in response to receiving the request.
- 15 12. A data processing system comprising:
a bus system;
a communications unit connected to the bus system;
a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the
memory includes a set of instructions; and
20 a processing unit connected to the bus system,
wherein the processing unit executes the set of
instructions to receive information from a plurality of
users; store the information to form stored information;
receive a request to remove selected information from the
25 stored information from a user within the set of users,
wherein the selected information is received in response
to a transaction involving the user; and remove the
selected information from the stored information in
response to receiving the request.

13. A data processing system comprising:
a bus system;
a communications unit connected to the bus system;
a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the
5 memory includes a set of instructions; and
a processing unit connected to the bus system,
wherein the processing unit executes the set of
instructions to send a Web page to a user at a client;
receive a response, wherein the response include the
10 information; process a business transaction with the
client using the information; store the information to
form stored information; receive a request to remove the
stored information; and remove the stored information in
response to receiving the request.
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14. A data processing system for managing information,
the data processing system comprising:
first receiving means for receiving information from
a plurality of users;
20 storing means for storing the information to form
stored information;
second receiving means for receiving a request to
remove selected information from the stored information
from a user within the set of users, wherein the selected
25 information is received in response to a transaction
involving the user; and
removing means for responsive to receiving the
request, removing the selected information from the
stored information.

Docket No. AUS920010546US1

15. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the second receiving means includes:

means for determining whether the request is a valid request; and

5 means for preventing removing of the selected information in response to a determination that the request is an invalid request.

16. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein at 10 least one of a certificate, a password, and a key is used to determine whether the request is valid.

17. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the 15 selected information is personal information about the user.

18. The data processing system of claim 17, wherein the personal information includes at least one of a user name, a user identification, a password, a telephone 20 number, an e-mail address, a physical address, a social security number, a birth date, and a credit card number.

19. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the transaction is a commercial transaction involving a 25 credit card number.

20. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the request sent to the user is in a form of an applet requesting personal information about the user.

Document Generated - Page 2004

Docket No. AUS920010546US1

21. A data processing system for managing information, the data processing system comprising:

 sending means for sending a Web page to a user at a client;

5 first receiving means for receiving a response, wherein the response include the information;

 processing means for processing a business transaction with the client using the information;

10 storing means for storing the information to form stored information;

 second receiving means for receiving a request to remove the stored information; and

 removing means for removing the stored information in response to receiving the request.

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22. The method of claim 21, wherein the request is received after retaining the stored information is unnecessary to the business transaction.

20 23. The data processing system of claim 21, wherein the business transaction is a purchase of an item using a credit card.

25 24. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for managing information, the computer program product comprising:

 first instructions for receiving information from a plurality of users;

30 second instructions for storing the information to form stored information;

PAGES 90-06454-000

- Docket No. AUS920010546US1
- third instructions for receiving a request to remove selected information from the stored information from a user within the set of users, wherein the selected information is received in response to a transaction
- 5 involving the user; and
- fourth instructions, responsive to receiving the request, for removing the selected information from the stored information.
- 10 25. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for managing information, the computer program product comprising:
- first instructions for sending a Web page to a user at a client;
- 15 second instructions for receiving a response, wherein the response include the information;
- third instructions for processing a business transaction with the client using the information;
- fourth instructions for storing the information to
- 20 form stored information;
- fifth instructions for receiving a request to remove the stored information; and
- sixth instructions for removing the stored information in response to receiving the request.
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26. The method of claim 25, wherein the request is received after retaining the stored information is unnecessary to the business transaction.

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